

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached "Replacement Sheets" of drawings include changes to Figures 3 and 4. The attached "Replacement Sheet(s)," which include Figures 1-4, replace the original sheets including Figures 1-4.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

Claim 3 is now pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

DRAWINGS

The drawings stand objected to for certain informalities. Applicant has attached revised drawings for the Examiner's approval. In the "Replacement Sheets", Figures 3 and 4 have been amended to include the legend "Prior Art", as required by the office action.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102 AND § 103

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Reinartz (DE 10207248). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sasaki (JP 2000-186767). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sasaki (JP 2000-170703). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Brielmaier (US 2,460,121). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brielmaier (U.S. Pat. No 2,460,121) in view of Sasaki (JP 2000-170703). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

At the outset, applicant notes that claims 1 and 2 have been cancelled and new claim 3 has been submitted. Claim 3 includes:

“a housing (2) including a bottomed tubular shell (3) having an end surface (35) in an open end portion;

an end cover (4) with a step concave portion (35) radially overlapping and welded to said end surface (35) of said tubular shell (3) and including a fixing portion (30) received in said open end portion of said tubular shell (3), wherein a cross sectional inner outline (32) of a peripheral edge portion (31) of said end cover (4) is an oval shape which is concave;

an operation member (5) including a metallic bellows (6) fixed to said fixing portion (30) formed in said end cover (4), wherein a pressure sealed chamber (8) and a pressure flow-in chamber (9) are formed by said operation member (5); and

a spacer (41) installed in a space (40) formed by a line connecting both sides of one end portion of the metallic bellows (6) fixed to said fixing portion (30), such that no space is formed between the gas end cover (4) and the spacer (41).”

With regard to Reinartz (DE 10207248) applicant submits that Reinartz fails to disclose “an end cover (4) with a step concave portion (35) radially overlapping and welded to said end surface (35) of said tubular shell (3) and including an fixing portion (30) received in said open end portion of said tubular shell”, as claimed. In particular, the end cover 17 of Reinartz does not include a “fixing portion” received in an open end portion of the tubular shell 1. With regard to Sasaki (JP 2000-186767) applicant submits that Sasaki '767 (Fig. 1) fails to disclose “an end cover (4) with a step concave portion (35) radially overlapping and welded to said end surface (35) of said tubular shell (3)”, as claimed, and further fails to disclose “a spacer (41) installed in a space (40) formed by a line connecting both sides of one end portion of the metallic bellows (6) fixed to said fixing portion (30), such that no space formed between the gas end cover (4) and the spacer (41).” Fig. 6 of Sasaki '767 fails to disclose “an end cover (4) with a step concave portion (35) radially overlapping and welded to said end surface

(35) of said tubular shell (3)... wherein a cross sectional inner outline (32) of a peripheral edge portion (31) of said end cover (4) is an oval shape which is concave", as claimed, and further fails to disclose "a spacer (41) installed in a space (40) formed by a line connecting both sides of one end portion of the metallic bellows (6) fixed to said fixing portion (30), such that no space is formed between the gas end cover (4) and the spacer (41)." Fig. 9 of Sasaki '767 fails to disclose "an end cover (4) ... wherein a cross sectional inner outline (32) of a peripheral edge portion (31) of said end cover (4) is an oval shape which is concave", as claimed, and further fails to disclose "a spacer (41) installed in a space (40) formed by a line connecting both sides of one end portion of the metallic bellows (6) fixed to said fixing portion (30), such that no space is formed between the end cover (4) and the spacer (41)."

With regard to Sasaki (JP 2000-170703) applicant submits that Sasaki '703 (Fig. 1) fails to disclose "an end cover (4) with a step concave portion (35) radially overlapping and welded to said end surface (35) of said tubular shell (3)", as claimed, and further fails to disclose "a spacer (41) installed in a space (40) formed by a line connecting both sides of one end portion of the metallic bellows (6) fixed to said fixing portion (30), such that no space formed between the gas end cover (4) and the spacer (41)." Fig. 3 of Sasaki '703 fails to disclose "an end cover (4) with a step concave portion (35) radially overlapping and welded to said end surface (35) of said tubular shell (3)... wherein a cross sectional inner outline (32) of a peripheral edge portion (31) of said end cover (4) is an oval shape which is concave", as claimed, and further fails to disclose "a spacer (41) installed in a space (40) formed by a line connecting both sides of one end portion of the metallic bellows (6) fixed to said fixing portion (30), such that

no space is formed between the gas end cover (4) and the spacer (41)." Fig. 6 of Sasaki '703 fails to disclose "an end cover (4) ... wherein a cross sectional inner outline (32) of a peripheral edge portion (31) of said end cover (4) is an oval shape which is concave", as claimed, and further fails to disclose "a spacer (41) installed in a space (40) formed by a line connecting both sides of one end portion of the metallic bellows (6) fixed to said fixing portion (30), such that no space is formed between the end cover (4) and the spacer (41)."

With regard to Brielmaier (US 2,460,121) applicant submits that Brielmaier '121 fails to disclose "an end cover (4) with a step concave portion (35) radially overlapping and welded to said end surface (35) of said tubular shell (3) and including a fixing portion (30) received in said open end portion of said tubular shell (3)", as claimed. In particular, in each of the embodiments of Figs. 1, 3-6, Brielmaier fails to disclose an end cover, as claimed. In the embodiment of Fig. 2, the end cover is not welded to the end surface of the tubular member and does not include a fixing portion received in an open end portion of the tubular shell.

In view of each of the above-discussed distinctions, applicants submit that claim 3 is patentable over the cited references. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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